

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system capable of running presentation software, comprising:

a computer, including a processor that generates screens;

5 a cursor control device, fixably connected to the computer and operably connected to the processor, that controls the movement of a cursor;

a display that displays the cursor and the screens generated by the processor;

a receiver system, operably connected to the processor, that receives wireless communication of commands and transfers the received commands to the processor; and

10 a removable input/output (I/O) device, removably connected to the computer, that is inoperable when connected to the computer and is operable when removed from the computer and functions as a remote control for wirelessly communicating commands to the processor through the receiver system.

15 2. The system of claim 1, further comprising a dedicated opening for the removable I/O device, wherein the removable I/O device when not in use is inserted into the dedicated opening in the computer.

20 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the computer includes one or more Personal Computer (PC) card slots and the removable I/O device when not in use is inserted into one of the one or more PC card slots.

25 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the computer includes one or more peripheral device slots and the removable I/O device when not in use is inserted into one of the one or more peripheral device slots.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the removable I/O device further comprises a laser pointer.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the removable I/O device further comprises an insertion/ejection aid that uses a push-push latching and ejecting mechanism to securely store the removable I/O device.

5 7. The system of claim 1, wherein the removable I/O device further comprises a plurality of control buttons including one or more of a sequence button, a select button, a cursor control button, a laser pointer control button, and user programmable keys.

10 8. The system of claim 7, wherein the user programmable keys controls one or more of the display, a presentation screen, room lights, an electronic projector, and an external multimedia source.

15 9. The system of claim 1, wherein the computer comprises a main circuit board and the receiver system is connected to the main circuit board.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein the computer includes one or more PC card slots and the receiver system is a PC card that is inserted into one of the one or more PC card slots in the computer, and the removable I/O device is removably connected to the PC card.

20 11. The system of claim 1, wherein the removable I/O device further comprises an I/O device display, and the removable I/O device receives wireless communication of commands from the processor through the receiver system and displays corresponding messages on the I/O device display.

25 12. The system of claim 11, wherein the removable I/O device use different colored indicator lights to convey the corresponding messages.

13. The system of claim 1, wherein the removable I/O device is a ring or a finger tip thimble that can be worn on an index finger or a thumb, wherein the ring or the thimble comprises

control buttons that are designed and located to be depressed by a thumb or other non-thumb fingers.

14. The system of claim 1, wherein the wireless communication commands are radio frequency (RF) signals.

15. An apparatus for remotely controlling a computer having a processor, comprising:
a receiver system, operably connected to the processor of the computer, that receives wireless communication of commands and transfers the received commands to the processor;
a removable I/O device, removably connected to the computer, that is inoperable when connected to the computer and is operable when removed from the computer and functions as a remote control for wirelessly communicating commands to the processor through the receiver system; and
one or more PC card slots, wherein the removable I/O device when not in use is inserted into one of the one or more PC card slots.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the receiver system is a PC card that is inserted into one of the one or more PC card slots in the computer, and the removable I/O device is removably connected to the PC card.

17. An apparatus for remotely controlling a computer having a processor, comprising:
a receiver system, operably connected to the processor in the computer, that receives wireless communication of commands and transfers the received commands to the processor;
a removable I/O device, removably connected to the computer, that is deactivated and inoperable when connected to the computer and is activated and operable when removed from the computer and functions as a remote control for wirelessly communicating commands to the processor through the receiver system;
an electrical signal connector for detecting a detachment of the removable I/O device from the computer; and

wherein the electrical signal connector, upon detecting the detachment of the removable I/O device, triggers the processor to provide for automatic configuration of external video outputs or internal display modes.

5 18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the electrical signal connector, upon detecting the detachment of the removable I/O device, triggers the processor to activate the receiver system, to turn on an external presentation device, to open and run a presentation program, and to send program signals to the external presentation device.

10 19. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the electrical signal connector, upon detecting a connection between the removable I/O device and the computer, sends a signal causing the recharging of the rechargeable battery of the removable I/O device, and triggers the processor to deactivate the receiver system, to turn off the external presentation device, and to alert the presentation program for appropriate actions such as shutting down the presentation program.

15 20. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the computer comprises a display and the external presentation device comprises a screen, and the electrical signal connector, upon detecting the detachment of the removable I/O device, triggers the processor to send different sets of signals to the display and the screen, wherein the different sets of signals may be pre-programmed in
20 advance to be optimized for both a presenter and an audience.